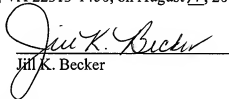


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Amemiya et al. Confirmation No.: 7118
Serial No.: 10/645,129 Group Art Unit: 2188
Filed: 08/21/2003 Examiner: Ellis, Kevin L.
Title: GROUPING OF STORAGE MEDIA BASED ON PARAMETERS
ASSOCIATED WITH THE STORAGE MEDIA

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted electronically to: Examiner Kevin L. Ellis, Group Art Unit 2188, United States Patent and Trademark Office, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on August 14, 2006.


Jill K. Becker

Date of Signature: August 14, 2006

To: Mail Stop AMENDMENT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Response To Office Action

Dear Sir:

This Response to Office Action is being submitted in reply to the Office Action mailed April 12, 2006 for the above-referenced patent application. A response to the Office Action was initially due on or before July 12, 2006, and thus, a Request For Extension Of Time and the requisite fee are enclosed herewith. Therefore, this Response is being timely filed.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 10 of this paper.